

Periscope.

EXCERPTS FROM SWEDISH, DANISH, NORWEGIAN AND FINNISH JOURNALS.

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HYPNOTISM IN SCANDINAVIA.

L. Bentzon describes a few cases of hypnotization employed as a therapeutic measure ("Ugeskr. f. Læger," R. 4, Bd. 16, S. 579). One was a young hysterical woman, who had suffered for a long period from cephalalgia and pain in the arms, from which she was freed in one séance. Another was a woman, aged 63, who had endured for two years severe rheumatic pains. She was cured in twelve séances.

G. Lütken ("Ugeskr. f. Læger," R. 4, Bd. 16, S. 617) describes 13 cases treated by hypnotism as follows: (1) A man with hypochondriasis was cured by suggestions made in nine séances. (2) A woman with neuralgia of the lingual and œsophageal nerves recovered. (3) A woman with "morbus mentalis" got well after three séances. (4) Another hypochondriac cured after three séances. (5) Chorea in a ten-year-old girl ceased after five hypnotizations. (6) A man was cured of stammering after ten suggestions. (7) A girl of eleven, with chorea and onanism, recovered after fifteen séances. (8) A woman with neurasthenia and neuralgia recovered. (9) A man much improved in mental state for a time, but grew worse subsequently, as the case proved to be paresis. (10) A case of hysteria, with enuresis and pain in the legs, entirely cured after sixteen séances. (11) A woman of 41, with melancholia, who had twice attempted suicide, recovered after six séances. (12) Another case of stammering, in a young man, cured. (13) Nervous condition following an apoplectic attack markedly improved under hypnotization.

S. Hytten ("Ugeskr. f. Læger," R. 4, Bd. 16, S. 648) reports the use of hypnotism in a number of cases of nervous disorder. (1) Cephalalgia of many years' duration, in a twenty-seven-year-old woman, was made to cease for some months by suggestion in a single séance. (2) Hysterical paralysis in a fourteen-year-old girl was cured in a few séances. (3) A thirteen-year-old girl, "shy, tired of home and evil-tempered," was improved in six séances. (4) Hysteria in a sixteen-year-old girl was cured. (5) Sciatica in

a twenty-six-year-old woman disappeared after four séances; was replaced by supraorbital neuralgia, which quickly vanished under suggestion. (6) Cephalalgia and rachialgia cured speedily. (7) Hysterical hemiplegia recovered after three séances. (8) Sciatica cured in another case in five séances. (9) Stammering in a young man easily removed. (10) A tooth was extracted without pain in a woman under suggestion.

F. Björnström has written a 222-page book (recently translated into English) giving a good *résumé* of the development and present standing of hypnotism in the scientific world, intended for physicians and jurists, but also to warn the public in general against its misuse. The author is thoroughly familiar with the work of the Paris and Nancy schools.

O. G. Wetterstrand ("Hygeia," 1888, S. 288, 130, 171) reports a large number of patients suffering from various disorders improved or cured by suggestive therapy.

P. D. Koch ("Ugeskr. f. Læger, R. 4, Bd. 17, S. 10) shows that hypnotism will soon take its proper place in medical science as a therapeutical measure of great importance. Magnus Huss, of Stockholm, has written an 82-page book upon the dangers of hypnotism. While he recognizes its value as a means of treating numerous disorders, he brings forward facts to show that its use may in some cases lead to disturbance of reason, and advises that public exhibitions of hypnotic experiments should be forbidden, and that physicians only should be allowed to practice it, but under certain legal conditions, in order to prevent its use for criminal purposes.

EXTIRPATION OF A CEPHALOCELE.

Dr. C. A. Bergh ("Nor. Med. Archiv.," 2d quarter, 1888) describes the case of a girl baby, five weeks old, admitted into the Gefle Hospital in 1886, with an occipital hydrocephalocele. It was an elastic pedunculated tumor, 10 cm. in diameter, springing from the posterior fontanelle. It increased in size on crying. Pressure revealed tissue of firmer consistence in its interior, but caused no cerebral symptoms. A clamp was applied, and the tumor punctured and removed under antiseptic precautions. A piece of brain the size of a hazel nut was evacuated with the serous fluid. The clamp remained in situ for twenty days. Complete recovery took place, but there is at present a slight sign of return.